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A bit of sparkle to celebrate icewine



Jennifer Chornley Special to the Advance

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce's Sparkle and Ice event returns Friday, Jan 16 for an evening of wine, food, and a chance to win a .63 carat diamond as the icewine Festival celebrations begin. Mac Moolman, owner of NOTL Jewellers and Precious Metals Studio, examines a stone that may or may not be the main prize diamond, as his wife Shelagh extends an icewine toast. For story, see page 2.

Beer Store short on details

Karena Walter
OMI Agency Niagara

Craft breweries in Niagara had more questions on tap than answers Wednesday about The Beer Store's surprise announcement it will open up ownership to all Ontario brewers.

The announcement — which comes after repeated criticism of the private, foreign-owned Beer Store's near-monopoly — was "out of left field," said one brewer.

"It is a complete and utter surprise to us," said Matthew Swan, co-owner of Silversmith Brewing Company in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A whole lot of details would need to be worked out.

The Beer Store announced last week that small Ontario brewers will be allowed to stock two of their products at the five Beer Store locations closest to their brewery for free.

They will also be able to stock those two products at other stores beyond the closest five for a reduced listing fee.

The company's shareholder agreement is also changing, allowing breweries with Beer Store sales under five million litres a year to get a preferred share in the company for \$100.

See Page 16

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Sparkle, outdoor dinner and more at icewine festival

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

There will be some serious sparkle in Niagara-on-the-Lake this weekend, when the second annual Sparkle and Ice event opens the annual icewine festival on Queen St.

As each guest arrives at the Court House Friday evening, they will be given a "diamond" in a gauze bag with a number. Guests can trade their bags with each other until 9:45 p.m., when the winning number is drawn for a diamond appraised at \$4,800.

It's the second year for a diamond giveaway - last year's event brought out a huge crowd.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce, host of the event, will recognize 2015 as the Year of Pan and ParaPan Am Games in Ontario, with Lord Mayor Pat Darte speaking about the importance of the games to the Niagara area.

Guests will celebrate with live salsa music and participate after watching a dance demonstration by professional salsa dancers, says Chamber of

Commerce executive director Janice Thomson.

Red and white VQA wines will be served at the event by 14 NOTL wineries, with Signature Kitchen chefs of the Oban Inn, Riverbend, HobNob, Zees, Escabeche, Cannery, Tiara, Peller and Ravine serving food pairing. Dishes include whoopee pie, seared foie gras, duck confit tacos, pork belly wellington, truffle gnocchi and lobster tartlet.

Later in the evening, guests will move outdoors to toast the launch of the festival and the upcoming Pan and ParaPan Am Games, with icewine served in glasses made of ice, accompanied by a display of fireworks, says Thomson.

Tickets are \$95, available at www.niagaraonthelake.com, 905-468-1950.

New this year, Queen St. will be closed to traffic and transformed into an ice village over two weekends, beginning Saturday, Jan. 17, at 11 a.m., when icewine from 26 NOTL wineries begins flowing to the sound of Canadian jazz, and renowned Signature

Kitchen chefs offer savoury and sweet icewine-inspired culinary creations. The icewine village will be open Sunday as well, from noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday evening, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., the popular Flash and Panache icewine Cocktail Competition returns, with NOTL's mixologists incorporating icewine into their cocktail repertoire, hoping to win the coveted icewine Cup.

During the weekend, several local wineries will be offering related events. Ravine Vineyard will feature their famous housemaid stew with local vegetables, paired with a Cabernet Franc icewine - Jan. 16, 17 and 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday Brunch Jan. 18.

Peller Estates Winery hosts an icewine dinner Jan. 17, with an ice-wine-infused menu and icewine marshmallows toasted over an open fire outdoors for dessert, while Southbrook Winery offers wine and yoga, Jan. 17 at 12:30 p.m.

Events continue at local wineries Jan. 23 to 25, and



Snow, cold temperatures and wind are expected during the annual icewine festival, but can't keep away the thousands who enjoy the celebration. Bundled against the cold last year, Gabriel Wertsch, from Between the Lines Winery, was one of several hardy people who poured icewine for visitors to the festival, which takes place in NOTL the next two weeks. QMI Agency Niagara file photo

the Queen St. icewine village will also be open.

The second weekend of celebrations in NOTL begins Thursday, Jan. 22, with something new - a White on Ice dinner outside in the icewine village tents, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Remember the warm summer evenings of Diner en Blanc on Queen St., asks Thomson?

This is something similar, outdoors - in a magical winter wonderland setting, she says.

Wear any colour - and lots of it to stay warm -- while the Signature Kitchen chefs will prepare dinner at five food stations. Wines will be provided by Jackson-Triggs, Reif and Trus Estate Wineries and the tables will be decorated and surrounded by as much heat as can be generated outdoors, with live music to add to the ambience.

Thursday and Friday during the day there will be ice carving demonstration on the street, beginning at noon, and from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Soup's On will feature soups from local Signature Kitchen restaurants.

Outdoor events will continue Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 25, noon to 5 p.m.

For more information visit www.niagara-onthelake.com or call 905-468-1950.

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Icebreakers Comedy Festival returns to NOTL

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Pay for one show or all four - either way you're sure to get a lot of laughs for your money.

Jeff Paul, a local comedian who now headlines at Toronto comedy clubs, has organized the second annual Icebreakers Comedy Festival - a series of four shows over three nights, featuring 17 comics, beginning Thursday, Jan. 22.

It's the second annual comedy festival to accompany the icewine celebration, and it will be done a little differently from last year, which offered three shows, one night, one location.

Last year's festival was an "overwhelming success," completely sold out, says Paul.

And although the goal of the event is to entertain the audience, it's important that the performers have fun too, he says - and they did.

Word caught on in Toronto, and there was no problem attracting top-notch comics for this year's festival.

"They wanted to come because they heard how much fun we had last year. We showed the comedians a good time, and word gets around. They all wanted to be part of it."

It's important to keep the performers happy, he said.

"They aren't getting paid a lot. We're just starting out with this festival, and we want to build it up, watch it grow. To do that you need good comics, and they're happy to get in on the ground floor."

Paul, who graduated from the TV broadcasting program at Fanshawe College in



Award-winning comic Mike Wilmut will headline Saturday's Icebreakers Comedy Festival show at The Royal Cambridge at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Photo submitted

London, grew up in St. Michaels, went to St. Michael Catholic Elementary School and then Niagara District Secondary School, and landed a job in Toronto with CTV, where he works as a program co-ordinator weekdays.

But his real love is performing, getting out as many nights as he can at various bars and clubs. And in addition to keeping him busy, he gets to hear other comics, and was able to hand-pick those he wanted in NOTL for this festival.

"I see them all the time in Toronto, and they're all at the top of their game," he says.

TJ Demers, who will be at Corks Friday night, was on the Conan O'Brien show last month, and Mike Wilmut, headliner for Saturday night's show, is an award-winning, world-renowned comic.

"He's the funniest man I know, my favorite comedian. To get him to come to NOTL is a real coup," he

said. Wilmut, says Paul, is a "fast-talking stand-up whose close-to-the-bone repertoire leaves the audience in a state of hilarity that most comedians can only dream of."

Wilmut is a two-time Canadian Comedy Award winner for best male stand-up and also best actor for his work in *It's All Gone Pete Tong*.

This year, the launch of the festival will be held at Niagara Oast House Brewers, Thursday, Jan. 22, at 9 p.m.

It will be a roast of Jeff Paul, and since he will be the butt of the jokes, he expects it will be a local crowd that will come out. It will be hosted by Hunter Collins, with roasters Christophe Davidson, Tim Golden, Rob Bebenek, Tyler Morrison and Dan Plomish - Plomish is a long-time friend of Paul's, and a Virgil native.

Friday, Jan. 23, the show returns to Corks Winebar & Eatery on Queen St. with host DeAnne Smith at the 8 p.m. show, comics Marc Sinodinos, DJ Demers and Dylan Gott, and headliner Jeff McEnery.

The second Friday show

at Corks begins at 10:30 p.m., Paul hosting, with Nigel Grinstead, Stephanie Tolev, and headliner Arthur Simeon.

Saturday, Jan. 24, the show moves to The Royal Cambridge at the Prince of Wales on Plattoff St. John Hastings is the host, fen-

turing DeAnne Smith and headliner Mike Wilmut.

Call 289-868-9527 for more information or for tickets.

A portion of the proceeds will go to CARE, the group supporting Parliament Oak Public School.



Jeff Paul, a St. David's native, works for CTV by day and at bars and comedy clubs around Toronto by night. He has become a producer of comedy nights and festivals in NOTL.

Photo submitted

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Town helps NOTL Hydro finance capital improvements

Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has discovered an innovative way to raise money for running

the municipality.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has been offered a loan of \$3 million from the town for a transformer for its transformer station and for other capital ventures. The hydro company borrows money on a regular basis for capital projects from financial institutions.

The current rate offered by Infrastructure Canada is 2.75 % which is available to Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro, but the town has negotiated an interest rate of 3 % with the utility to be

repaid over 10 years.

"It is not a usual arrangement," said chief administrative officer Mike Galloway at the corporate services advisory committee meeting Monday. "(The town) had a cash position of \$20 million at the end of 2013."

He said the finances are still being tallied for the end of the 2014 fiscal year, but he did not see a cash-flow problem with lending the money.

"Either they can go to the bank or we can lend

them the money," said Galloway. "At the end of the year, there is only one taxpayer."

Corporate services staff reported that the loan application was vetted by the town's lawyer and auditors. They agreed that it was low risk as it is callable with 90 days' notice at any time.

Currently, the town earns 1.25 % on its cash holdings. The loan will bring in an extra \$50,000 to its coffers in the first year.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro requires the funds by Feb. 1. The committee voted in favour of the staff recommendation to provide the loan and a final decision will be made by council next Monday.

The decision to lend money to the utility, which is 100 % owned by the Town, is an example of the flexibility that ownership allows, and the goal of the Town and the utility - to do what's best for the taxpayers of NOTL, Galloway told the Advance.



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HOST
JEFF PAUL @jeffpaulcomedy
Jeff Paul has quickly become one of the most sought after comedians in the country, with a care free, no holds barred attitude leaving audiences gapping for more. No topic is off limits and his unmistakable charm has allowed him to push the limits of comedy with his keen insight for years. Jeff is a regular on Yab, Talk stages and was featured twice in the NKNKE Festivals.

FEATURING
HIGEL GRINSTEAD @HigelGrinstead
Higel Grinstead's laid back charm and absurd takes on life have earned him the reputation of being one of the goofiest and most intelligent upcoming comics in the Toronto scene. His work ethic and jovial nature has landed him opportunities within festivals such as NKNKE, Cottage Country Comedy Festival, and No Kidding on iChannel.

STEPH TOLEY @StephToley
Steph Toley is a stand up & sketch comic born and raised in Toronto. She has been performing in and around the city over the last seven years both on her own and with her sketch duo Ladytache. Steph has performed at Just for Laughs in Montreal, the Edinburgh Fringe Fest, JFL42, San Francisco Sketch Festival, Comedy Central Stage, LA Comedy Fest and NKNKE.

HEADLINER
ARTHUR SIMON @ArthurSimon
Arthur Simon is not your typical Toronto-bred-by-way-of-Kampala, Uganda comedian. This one is unique. Arthur brings a funny, rich and authentic African viewpoint to living in North America. A gifted and enchanting storyteller, Arthur recently taped the second season of HBO's Funny As Hell series, and has appeared three times at Just For Laughs festivals in Montreal.

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Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

Consultant to help with Official Plan updates

Planning consultants are expected to be hired by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to help complete the draft of an updated Official Plan for public review by the end of the year.

John Henricks, director of community and development services, suggested to councillors Monday that a maximum of \$100,000 be budgeted for

professional planners to assist with the updating process that began in 2012.

Since the last update to the Official Plan in 1994, there have been secondary plans approved for some areas of the community and amendments that address changing land use policies, "but a comprehensive review of the document is overdue"

Henricks reported.

He advised that hiring consultants would also allow planning staff to work on a number of projects at the same time that need attention over the next three years. Some of the issues he identified are addressing the pressures for commercial expansion into residential areas in the Queen-

Piction heritage area, updating St. David's Secondary Plan and urban design guidelines for the Old Town and Virgil.

Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Austin Kirby, requested that one of the consultants hired by the town has expertise in local agricultural issues. She stressed the importance of the agricultural industry to the town and the many economic challenges that owners of small farming operations face as a result of government legislation and policies.

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NOTL residents pay lowest hydro delivery charge in region

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro customers pay the lowest electricity delivery charge in the Niagara Region.

The delivery charge is only one of several items on a hydro bill, and it's the only one controlled by the local utility, says Jim Curtis, who came to NOTL Hydro as its new president in July, after 16 years of working in the industry.

The efficiency of delivery that allows for that lower rate has not occurred overnight – it comes primarily as a result of NOTL Hydro purchasing and investing in its own transmission systems, a strategy adopted over the last decade by the hydro board, the Town and the company itself, said Curtis. That puts NOTL Hydro in control of the cost of taking electricity from the transmission stations and delivering it to its customers.

"We have a long-term strategy that focuses on the best interests for our

customers," said Curtis. "Our low delivery rate is a result of years of efficiency investment in our system. We strive for a safe, reliable system that can support a growing Niagara-on-the-Lake for years to come."

NOTL Hydro also contributes revenue to lower the tax rate for the taxpayers of NOTL.

In 2014, that revenue was \$1 million, said Curtis.

Taking over NOTL Hydro 15 years ago, rather than selling it to a private company as many other municipalities did, was a good decision, giving the utility a "vested interest" in continuing to do a good job for its customers, said Curtis.

Town CAO Mike Galloway agrees the decision to make NOTL residents the shareholders of the utility company is, in hindsight, a wise one.

It's down to the Town, the hydro board directors and management that they can all work together with a common goal – what's in the best interest of the taxpayers – and have the flex-

ibility to make decisions that fulfill that goal, he said.

Although neither Galloway nor Curtis were around for that decision, "it's left us in a fortunate position," said Galloway, "with 100% of hydro shares owned by the Town of NOTL. Over the years, well before my time, decisions have been made in the best interest of the residents of NOTL."

The mandate of NOTL Hydro is to give the best quality service at the lowest rate, said Galloway, whereas with a privately owned utility, profit is usually the main goal.

Of Niagara municipalities, those that retained ownership of their electrical utility rather than selling it off have amongst the lowest delivery charges: Grimsby, Niagara Falls, Lincoln, Pelham, West Lincoln, St. Catharines and Welland all either own their utility or share ownership with a municipal partner, with delivery charges ranging from 7% higher than NOTL to 12%.

But Fort Erie and Port

Colborne's delivery charges, with hydro owned by a private company, are 41 to 44% higher, while Thorold, Wainfleet and Pelham's delivery charges are 45% higher from Hydro One Networks.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro continues to invest in long-term improvements, said Curtis, including plans to bury Old Town and Virgil electricity lines—it's an expensive undertaking that has been occurring in stages, and will proceed in stages, with an obvious aesthetic benefit. But underground lines are also more efficient, with less line loss, says Curtis.

The utility also has an annual process of updating all old rural lines and allow for system growth.

Dave Dick of Niagara Motors can't say enough about the efficiency of NOTL Hydro in recent

years.

"Kudos to the Town and to NOTL Hydro for doing such an admirable job with respect to efficiency," says the local business owner.

"Here we are 10 years later and they're doing great," he said, mentioning the revenue the utility pays the Town every year to offset taxes, in addition to investing in infrastructure that has vastly improved efficiency and reduced outages.

A recent development which is a byproduct of smart meters is an outage management system that automatically notifies NOTL Hydro in the event of a power outage, without the need of notification by customers – smart meters notify the utility as soon as electricity stops flowing through them, says Curtis.

That reduces the dispatch time and the length of the outage, he says, but



NOTL Hydro president Tim Curtis

he encourages customers to continue to call 905-468-4235 in the event of an outage – there can be false alarms with the smart meters, and customer calls reinforce the need for action.

Consultant won't impact budget

From Page 4

Kirkby said a new Official Plan will help to raise the profile of the agricultural sector.

She noted that more and more orchards are being converted to vineyards for economic reasons, including the recent hiking of the minimum wage.

Coun. Betty Disero called for an agricultural consultant to be part of the professional planning team for the updated Official Plan.

"We've all been talking about the importance of history and heritage," she said, "but agriculture (is important) too."

Henricks reported that the cost for the consultants would not impact the town's operating budget for 2015. He said the work would be funded from development charges and a reserve fund

for corporate studies.

If council approves the community and development committee's recom-

mendation for hiring of consultants next week, a request for proposals will be prepared by staff.

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opinion page

Niagara Advance

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our editorial

Wise decision to keep NOTL Hydro

It was more than a decade ago when the province of Ontario gave municipalities the choice of selling their local utilities or keeping them under the ownership of the municipality.

After much debate, the council of the day decided, by one vote, to retain ownership of NOTL Hydro.

Since then, the Town council, NOTL Hydro directors and management have all worked together with a common goal: to benefit the taxpayers of NOTL, the ultimate shareholders of the utility.

Other municipalities took the carrot of a big payout - and it must have seemed appealing, to have that kind of revenue to pay down debt, finance infrastructure, or reduce tax rates for taxpayers.

But NOTL councillors - at least the majority of them - resisted,

choosing instead to retain what control they could over the utility.

Electricity, say those directly involved in its delivery, is a complicated issue, highly regulated and legislated, with little opportunity for wiggle room as far as billing. Yet NOTL Hydro, through decisions to invest in transmission and transformers, has not only reduced outages but managed to do so while having the lowest delivery rate of any municipality in Niagara.

Maybe it's difficult to get excited over news about a utility, but NOTL taxpayers have reason to celebrate. Electricity is one of the major bills we receive each month, and those in NOTL are lower than those in other Niagara municipalities, thanks to some wise decisions that continue to take into account what's best for taxpayers.

Outstanding young citizen



At a recent meeting of the NOTL Rotary Club, Owen Bjorgan was given a Paul Harris award for his achievements as a young outstanding citizen. He spoke to Rotary members about his 800-km Trail of Life walk from Tobemorty to Queenston Heights, which raised \$25,000 for Red Roof Retreat, which offers day programs and respite care for special needs children and young adults. The Paul Harris Award is the highest award that Rotary gives to people who have contributed to the community and the world at large. At the meeting, Bjorgan presented the cheque to Ken Janzen and Steffanie Bjorgan of Red Roof Retreat.

Photos submitted

letters to the editor

Meters on parkway trail upset walker

The most recent fundraiser for Citizens for Responsible Education (CARE) was held at the Shaw Festival Theatre on the afternoon of Sunday Dec 21.

The SHAW and Hummel Properties sponsored the viewing of The Polar Express, a magical Christmas movie. The message of the movie is about the power of belief-

ing. Three hundred and fifty people attended the event, including MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Pat Darte and Santa Claus.

We are tremendously grateful for the community support of all the fundraising efforts to date. Hummel Properties provided the seed resources for this very special Christmas event to happen.

The Shaw staff and management have been very involved with every stage of the school review process in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They have prepared letters of support,

made donations, spearheaded rallies, circulated petitions and have supported all fundraising events.

The Shaw community of actors and talented support staff are also involved in dramatic arts programming at Parliament Oak Public School.

We would also like to thank Ward Simpson for inviting Santa Claus and Balzac's Café for providing hot chocolate.

With sincere gratitude,

Joy Janzen
CARE Fundraising
Committee



opinion

Get something started for kitchen

➤ New year resolution seems impossible already

One of my New Year Resolutions was to keep my desk clear - well sad to say that seems impossible for me.

I tried, then I found a plant catalogue and I am off in a tangent. Climbing Vines, says the title, that is all it takes and I am planning - however Virginia Creeper is on the first page and I am forced to remember how I loved the colours in the fall, then discovered not only did the vine climb - it lived up to the name - I kept, all through the greens.

As you can tell I am try-



Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

ing to talk myself out of getting too enthusiastic too soon.

In February last year I was in a hardware store and I was drawn to a display of potted plants, especially one with a flower that resembled a narcissi. It turned out to be an orchid, a species I have never grown, as I saw it as some-

thing that needed special care. Well I could not resist, brought it home, placed it on the kitchen windowsill, watered it occasionally and it bloomed non-stop until Christmas. I am not sure if there is something I should do at this point, so I will wait and see.

If the need to grow something is overwhelming you, there are some good things for the kitchen you can grow from seed - chives, oregano, basil and mint (and they all smell wonderful). Remember if you use clay pots, to soak your pots first so they do not leech the moisture from the soil. Ah, something growing - pinch a leaf and rub it between your fingers - nature is truly wonderful.

Happy gardening.



This is a good time to begin growing herbs from seed, in pots for the kitchen, says gardener Jean Cochrane.

Is it time for change in regional governance?

So, we almost, sort of, but not really have dual representation for St. Catharines at city hall and regional council.

I know, I know. You are totally excited because the events of Monday night's city council meeting was like watching Evil Kenenil and the Kentucky Derby at the same time.

Or whatever the opposite of that would be? A Glee marathon or something?

Alright, it's not exactly the Moon landing but it is still interesting because it represents the thing that this city, and this region, seem to have the most.

Change.

The logic behind having a dual rep is, insofar as I can see, sound.

It is a way to keep the region and city hall



Grant LaFleche
QMI Agency Niagara

plugged into each other. Having someone who sits on both bodies is inherently useful to both councils, particularly in a region where the need to move away from parochialism is absolutely critical.

I do not begrudge St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik's efforts to make the change. I think he is

right about this. Niagara has been doing the same thing, the same way, for decades, and far too often this region is a mess. Some alterations to the governance model is probably what we need.

While I agree with the dual role model, I am not totally sold on the "test drive" last night's meeting was intended to produce by appointing councillor Matt Harris to that role. We don't need pilot projects. If the idea is sound, and it works elsewhere, just do it.

And Harris wasn't elected to that role. QED.

All things being equal, this is the sort of thing that should be before voters, not decided after the fact by councils.

However, as archaic as this process is, it is not

corrosive to democracy. The cries of "dictatorship" by councillor Jenny Stevens last night were beyond ludicrous and makes me laugh. Like this:

Ha. Nevertheless, there is something that strikes me as a little odd about Harris being named to the role, although it is not about his skills as an elected rep.

At the end of the day, he might well have been the guy council chose for the role. The other councillors didn't put their names forward, after all.

What matters, though, is the change in the governance model, not a particular councillor.

You'd think city hall would want to see what the region and the prov-

ince actually decide before selecting one of their own - unless the identity of that councillor is necessary to sell this idea.

To get anything through the region these days means meeting with the approval of the right-wing cabal that imagines itself a Great Power, a gang of latter day of Machiavellis, striking a blow for partisan conservatives by dealing with road repairs and sewage. Today they take Niagara, tomorrow Berlin ... or at least East Main Street in Welland.

Anyway, if Sendzik wants to push this idea through, he may well have to negotiate with the cabal.

Putting forward Harris, who leans Tory politically, as his preferred choice

may be the price of their support.

Or, since I could be totally wrong about this, no one else was crazy enough to want to sit on two councils.

Look, I'm not a magic 8-ball. Take whichever hypothesis you like.

Ultimately, having dual reps makes a great deal of sense. It's good for the city and the region.

The vote and rancor we saw at city council last night had more to do with old guard vs. new than partisan alliances. It was about holding on to the way things have always been done, than moving forward to something new.

Just because we have always done something a certain way isn't a reason never to change it.

WW II veteran reconciles past in his final years before death

Don Fraser
QMI Agency Niagara

It took Second World War veteran Ken Rowland two decades to begin opening up about that conflict's brutality.

By chance, the General Motors employee met another at the plant who'd also served during the war.

Slowly, those locked-out memories loosened, reports his sister Kendra Broadley.

"It was really then that he started to open up," said Broadley. "He still didn't talk about the war brutality at home, only

with the war buddies and at the Legion."

Rowland, 90, passed away on New Year's Eve at the Tabor Manor in St. Catharines.

His death — possibly from pneumonia — was peaceful and calm. Just the day before, he had told Broadley and family members who were with him until the end, that he loved them.

Broadley said her father was consistently positive, when other veterans may have been embittered by war experiences.

Rowland had joined the militia, and later the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. As a teenager,

he guarded the Welland Canal during the early part of the war.

He served overseas in 1944 as an infantry signaler, first stationed in Great Britain. He then fought on the ground in a campaign during the war that started in Normandy and ended in Germany.

In one of the harrowing scenes in a 2002 documentary film about the Links and Winks, Rowland talked of being with his signal-partner comrade Bill Roscoe, who was shot. He pulled the man into a jeep, and the soldier died in his arms.

Rowland always believed those fatal bul-

lets were meant for him.

Broadley remembers a trip overseas in 2010 to commemorate an anniversary of Bergen Op Zoom — a city in the Netherlands the regiment fought to liberate.

In the trip, accompanied by his daughters Kendra, Vicki and Donna, his real coming-to-terms with the war began.

"He told us then of the horrors that had happened," she said. "It's when the healing started ... there was a lot of survivor's guilt."

Rowland — who was adopted and lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines — married his wife Gerlie after the war and the Merrittion couple raised three daughters. A plumber by trade, he retired as a supervisor at GM's Glendale plant in St. Catharines.

Rowland was a past president and lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 138 in Merrittion. After retirement, he and his wife had moved to rural Hanover, Ont. and later relocated back to St.



Ken Rowland, Second World War veteran, opened up about his war experiences before his death at the age of 90.

Photo submitted

Catharines.

"He was a very, very positive person," said Broadley. "He was thankful for each day, and said each one was a gift."

"And he loved my mother," said Broadley of her mother who has Alzheimer's disease and had been living at Taber with Rowland. "He would not let her out of his

sight.

Lieut.-Col. Jeff Cairns remembers Rowland, and is working with the family on a biographical book.

"They had started to collate his memories and memoirs into a book," said Cairns, former commanding officer at the Links and Winks and chair of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum.

"And we're looking forward to working with his daughter Vicki to bring that book into fruition."

"It is so important to remember these veterans and their trials and tribulations."

Cairns said Rowland was a regular at the annual Bergen Op Zoom remembrance parade and dinner held by his regiment.

In later years, "he was really beginning to talk and share (his war experiences)," he said. "There gets to a point where the guys can finally share and reconcile it and need to share and pass it on."

He is survived by many extended family members, including eight grandchildren.



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Photo of historic event finds home at family pub

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

A print presented to the
Dietsch family by a local

photographer has found a home in a restaurant booth often occupied by former Lord Mayor Mike Dietsch before his death last year.

It was given to them by Fred Mercik, who took photos at a July 4, 1992

event - the town's 200th anniversary celebration of the landing of John Graves Simcoe. Dietsch, like many dignitaries and residents, was dressed in costume that day, and Mercik's photo has him and several

other men similarly dressed posed on the steps of the Court House on Queen St.

Mike's sons Matt and Paul pass it often as they go about their daily chores at the Sandtrap Pub and Grill, the restaurant they opened

about two years before their father died last March.

Matt says when he sees the photo, it's a reminder of better times, and of just how big a role his father played in the community.

See Page 15

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Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Paul and Matt Dietsch are happy to have a print of a photo from a 1992 event, featuring their father Mike Dietsch in costume as a town crier, to display in their restaurant. Locals like to stop and reminisce about the days when he was lord mayor, they say.

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Photo a conversation piece for regulars who like to reminisce

From Page 14

The print is in black and white, and fits in so well with the restaurant decor that people sitting in the booth might not take a second look, but when they do, says Matt, if they're locals, they recog-

nize his father and often several of the others in the photo. It's become a conversation piece for some who visit the pub, he said - they like to reminisce about earlier times.

Last Canada Day, Mercnik was in Simcoe Park for the festivities and

ran into members of the Dietsch family. The photo at that time was hanging in his home, and he asked if they would like it for the restaurant.

Of course they said yes, said Matt, and later that same day, Mercnik presented it to them at their

Mary St. pub.

It's hung since then at the 'Mike Dietsch' table, where Matt and Paul remember their father often sitting while they were getting the restaurant ready to open.

"It was a difficult time, and a stressful time," said

Matt.

"My dad was always there, and if we had questions, he had advice for us. He had a really calming effect on us."

By the time the restaurant opened, Mike was becoming weak from cancer, and didn't get out

much, except to sit in his booth in the restaurant.

Many locals would stop to talk to him, and he enjoyed the socializing, said Matt - that was about all he could manage.

"I thought the print might put a sparkle in their life," said Mercnik.

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Small breweries want control over their market

From Page 1

Those breweries with sales over five million litres a year will pay \$1,000 for a preferred share.

The Beer Store is owned by three multinationals — Anheuser-Busch, Molson Coors and Sapporo.

"As a result of these changes all Ontario brewers will be able to participate in the management of the company and the smallest Ontario brewers will get improved opportunities to grow their sales volumes at a significantly reduced cost," Beer Store president Ted Moroz said in a statement.

The three current owners of the Beer Store will continue to dominate the new board holding 12 of the 15 seats.

Silversmith's Swan said the announcement doesn't address the biggest issue on the table for small breweries — getting beer into the hands of consumers in an equitable way.

He said Ontario's system is a dinosaur and the province's decision to grant multi-nationals a monopoly to sell beer is baffling. "Our major competitors are the largest multi-

national beer companies in the world who own The Beer Store so there are still some issues would have to be worked out for our ideal situation would arise," Swan said.

"It's out of left field and not a lot of information,"

Cian MacNeill of Niagara Oast House Brewery in Niagara-on-the-Lake said craft breweries want to see a fundamental change in the way Ontario distributes beer. The announcement, which he said "blindsided" them, is far from that.

"It might be small step in the right direction but we would certainly like as much freedom to reach our market as is entitled to the big guys," MacNeill said.

The idea of being able to put their product in the five closest Beer Stores for no listing fees could be a benefit to a rural brewery like Oast in reaching urban areas of Niagara, he said.

Ideally, he said craft breweries would like their products showcased the way they want in the markets they want to be in — instead of another group controlling how much they can bring in and how its displayed.

Rod Daigle, co-owner of Brimstone Brewing Company in Ridgeway, said he was skeptical of the announcement.

"My initial gut reaction is it's a little bit knee-jerk and it may very well be designed to quell complaints from brewers in the province by giving them ownership," said Daigle.

"It's been heating up a lot over the last six months or so and suddenly there's this announcement. So I'm a little bit skeptical."

Daigle said Brimstone, opened in 2013, hasn't been in the position to approach The Beer Store because of volume and pricing requirements. If those requirements change, he said they'd be happy to look at it because the brewery is in a growing phase.

"We'd welcome as many avenues as possible to get our beer out to the public."

Currently, most craft breweries sell their beer at their breweries, in bars and restaurants and in some cases at the LCBO. Local brewers echoed the association Ontario Craft Brewers, which said in a statement the announcement came as a "complete surprise" to its members.



Julie Jocsak, owner and marketing manager at Niagara Oast House Brewers, says changes to the way The Beer Store deals with microbreweries are not enough — there needs to be a fundamental change in the way Ontario distributes beer.

Association chairman Cam Heaps said in a press release the association was not consulted by The Beer Store.

"Our goal continues to be fundamental change to Ontario's beer distribution channels that will result in a doubling or tripling of

the jobs currently created by the craft brewers as well as the ability to reach our share of market potential," he said in a statement.

The announcement comes in the wake of increased criticism about The Beer Store.

In August, the C. D. Howe report *Uncorking a Strange Brew: The Need for More Competition in Ontario's Alcoholic Beverage Retailing System* recommended the province eliminate The Beer Store's "quasi-monopoly."

An expert panel reviewing Ontario government

assets meanwhile, recommended last fall that the private sector monopoly be left in place to maintain a cost-effective delivery system but that craft breweries be given greater opportunities to expand their business.

Susie Heath, a spokesman for Finance Minister Charles Sousa, said the government asset advisory council will continue looking at the LCBO and Beer Store.

"The advisory council will consider this announcement in the context of its work," Heath said in an e-mail.

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In 2002, the Canadian government passed a bill declaring Jan. 11 as Sir John A. Macdonald Day – Jan. 11, 1815 was his birthday. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Canada's first prime minister.

Sir John A. Macdonald

Did you know?

Sir John A. Macdonald wrote most of what was to become Canada's Constitution – the British North America Act – in his own hand.

John Roberts, Ontario's 17th premier, also celebrated his birthday on Jan. 11.

John Roberts

The Kingston Brewing Co. makes special beers every January named after Sir John A. and Jean Chretien – both men have the same date of birth.

Sir John A.'s son had a successful career in politics. Hugh John Macdonald served as the eighth premier of Manitoba in 1900.

Throughout his political career, Sir John A. represented Kingston and Victoria in the House of Commons.

Hugh John Macdonald

Sir John A. is buried in Kingston alongside his parents, first wife and siblings. His second wife, Agnes, and their daughter Mary are buried in England, mostly forgotten.

Sir John A. was not the only early Canadian prime minister born in Scotland. Alexander Mackenzie, Canada's second prime minister, was also Scottish.

Alexander Mackenzie

One of Sir John A.'s law students was Oliver Mowat, who went on to become Ontario's third premier.

Sir John A. established Canada's first national park at Banff, Alberta in 1885.

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Sir John A. led his party to six majority victories, a record for Canadian prime ministers that still stands today.

Victoria was queen the entire period he was prime minister.

Despite political differences, Sir John A. was a great admirer of Wilfrid Laurier – who would go on to become Canada's first French-Canadian prime minister.

Sir John A. was born in Glasgow, where huge celebrations in his honour will be taking place this year.

The proper name of Ontario's Highway 401 is the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway, named to pay tribute to the historic partnership between Cartier of Quebec and Macdonald of Ontario that made Canada possible.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has a large portrait of Sir John A. Macdonald facing his desk in his private office in Parliament Hill's Centre Block.



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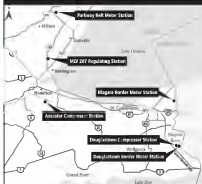
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Public Notice Greater Golden Horseshoe Facilities Project Proposed Niagara Border Meter Station Upgrades



As part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Facilities Project, TransCanada is proposing to add new natural gas measurement and control facilities to its Canadian Mainline system in Southern Ontario. These modifications will take place at six existing TransCanada sites around the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Based on firm contractual commitments, the project will increase TransCanada's capability to receive gas from the Niagara area for delivery to markets in Ontario, including the Greater Toronto Area.

The meter station measures gas flow to TransCanada's existing transmission pipeline system. The station is located on the east side of Concession 1 Road, just north of Line 6 Road. The upgrades to the facility will take place entirely on TransCanada's existing station property.

The proposed upgrades at the Niagara Border site involve installing new components to allow for increased natural gas flow measurement capacity. All work will be performed on TransCanada's property.

The modifications to the facility will take place entirely on TransCanada's existing station property. An application for approval to construct and operate this Project is expected to be filed with the National Energy Board (NEB) in early 2015. Pending regulatory approvals, construction is scheduled to commence in fall 2015, with facilities targeted to be in-service November 2015.

TransCanada encourages public input with respect to the Project and the planned NEB application. Anyone interested in the Project is invited to contact us prior to January 28, 2015.

We encourage you to contact us at any time during this Project with your questions or comments.

Greater Golden Horseshoe Facilities Project:
Phone: 416.869.2123
Email: sara_bessley@transcanada.com

Or write to:

TransCanada
Attn: Greater Golden Horseshoe Facilities Project
200 Bay Street 24th Floor, South Tower
Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2T1



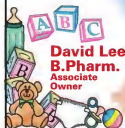
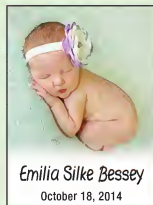
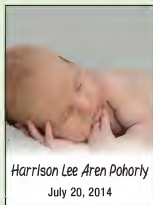
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Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-0332

Keep outdoor pets away from danger of antifreeze

➤ It's a slow, painful death, says local veterinarian

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

When pets die of antifreeze poisoning, it's usually a purposeful act by someone who wants to get rid of wildlife, says a

local veterinarian.

Dr. Jim Turpel, of Upper Canada Animal Hospital, had a kitten brought into him Wednesday which had been found freezing by the side of the Lakeshore Rd., near the former rifle range.

But once the kitten, a brown tabby about four months old, was warmed up, he didn't seem to improve - he became more sickly, and had to be euthanized Thursday night.

The veterinarian says

the little kitten's symptoms and blood work are consistent with antifreeze poisoning, which can be fatal in small doses.

Some people will put it out to purposely get rid of coyotes, raccoons, skunks or other wildlife, he said - any animal, including cats and dogs, will lap it up if they find it, because it tastes sweet.

But it's deadly - by the time the animal shows symptoms, it's too late.

And it's a horrible, painful way to die, he says.

He has sent tissue from the kitten to be analyzed, and should know this week, he said.

"We're not certain that this is what we're looking at, but it scares me. And it's possible that it's accidental, but not likely. It's a well-known poison and one people use to get rid of wildlife."

The poison causes kidney damage, and ultimately kidney failure.



Veterinarian Jim Turpel thought this four-month-old tabby would be fine once he was warmed up, but instead he got worse, and had to be euthanized. Turpel fears the kitten might have been poisoned by antifreeze. Photo submitted

ney damage, and ultimately kidney failure.

"It's so sad. We expected him to get better - we had a name for him and a home for

him. And we don't want to scare people because we really don't know yet, but we want also want to warn people. There are a lot of indoor/outdoor cats around this area, pets that are really well-cared for. We just hope

nobody is doing it on purpose."

If anybody knows someone who might think they're targeting wildlife, stop them from using the poison, he says - no animal should have to suffer that fate."

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Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Spring/Summer 2015

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in co-operation with
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Look for your copy of the Spring/Summer Community Awareness 2015
in the Niagara Advance February 26, 2015





Kay Kiss, Golden Horseshoe regional representative of the Hospital Auxiliary Association of Ontario, regional councillor Gary Burroughs, Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Dr. Suzanne Johnston, president of the Niagara Health System, Elen MacMillan, president of HAAO, and MPP Wayne Gates help Marilyn Hubert, president of the NHTL Auxiliary (front), celebrate the 95th anniversary of the auxiliary at the community centre Saturday. Photo submitted

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2014 Year in Review: Election campaigning begins, ARC continues

January
January 2014 began with a couple of issues that turned out to be somewhat prophetic. Pat Darte was the first to announce his intention to run - he said he wanted time to pull resident and find out what they wanted and he also wanted to talk out his "biggest and boldest issue" - a high school for Niagara-on-the-lake.
He must have done a good job understanding the wants of residents, as he

won the election in October.
Gary Burroughs, as he entered what would turn out to be his final year as regional chair, admitted 2013 had been difficult. He took some criticism for not exerting more control over meetings, but when he failed to receive support for a second term as chair, he said the issue has more to do with others wanting a different kind of control over the region.
Also early in the new year,

Wayne Gates chose the steps of Parliament Oak School to announce his intention to run as the NDP representative in the provincial byelection to replace Kim Craitor - he won the byelection and the provincial election that followed shortly afterward. He kept his word, speaking on behalf of the school.
Accommodation review meetings continued throughout the new year, with CARE members (Citizens for Accountable

and Responsible Education) speaking at every public meeting and researching data to present to the school board. The board of course didn't agree and made its decision in April to close the school at the end of this year. CARE continues its battle through a court review of the board decision.
Also in January, the hospital review committee hired consultants to oversee their work. The final consultants' report was released in December, recommending

a new health centre that would provide offices for the family health team and the services now available at the hospital.
February
In February, Canadians won the men's Olympic gold medal hockey game in Russia. In NOTL, a crowd gathered at the Sandtrap Pub and Grill to watch it, but couldn't enjoy a drink - the Town decided not to allow an exception to the rules that limit serving alco-

holic beverages at certain times. Those who were there to watch said it was a good party anyway, and more than \$600 was raised for KidsPort Niagara, which provides financial support to help kids participate in sports.
In preparing for its May opening, the Glendale outlet mall held a job fair at Niagara College, with 1,500 positions up for grabs. More than 4,000 people showed up.

See Page 25

BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2015.

1800



Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library
expanding minds & enriching the community since 1800

10 Anderson Lane,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-2023
www.notlpubliclibrary.org



1927



GREAVES

55 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3608
www.greavesjams.com

1946



BUICK • GMC TRUCKS
Hwy 55, Virgil
905-468-2145

1950



Penner
building centre

700 Penner Street Virgil
905-468-3242

1959



Betty, Gordon, Ernie
& Brittany Morgan



415 Regent Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3255 • www.morganfuneral.com

1971



H&R BLOCK®

1512 Niagara Stone Rd.
(Downtown Virgil)
905-468-2222

New outdoor fitness equipment for Virgil, GO train talk continues

March
Niagara-on-the-Lake lost a staunch supporter in March, when Mike Dietsch, former MPP, regional councillor and lord mayor, died.

Throughout the winter and spring, the issue of medical marijuana operations was often in the news, both because of one on Lakeshore Rd. and others in the process of seeking commercial licences. One we know of, on Conc. 7, was turned down, and one on Line 5 approved, and is now open for business. NOTL did approve

some zoning restrictions - an issue other municipalities continue to deal with.

April
Parliament Oak continued to dominate the local news, as the ARC recommendations went to the school board, and despite its recommendation that the school stay open, board senior staff said it should close. Before the month was over, trustees had voted, and ignored all the hard work of school supporters, including the Town council, the NOTL

Chamber of Commerce, regional chair Gary Burroughs and MPP Wayne Gates

In April, the Pedal Angels, a group of cycling paramedics, asked for support in making NOTL a heart-safe community - blanketing it with heart defibrillators designed to be used by the public, and training members of the public to use them.

May
In May, the region outlawed smoking on all municipal and regional properties,

including parks, playgrounds, sports or playing fields, arenas, recreational centers, bus shelters, splash pads and pools.

Excitement began building for an outdoor Virgil Stampede concert, the first ever on a Friday night. Kim Mitchell was the headline act, and although everything ran smoothly and those who attended were impressed by the event, poor weather was blamed at a lower turn-out than expected.

The holiday weekend was also the opening of the

roundabout, which had received much criticism before it opened. It continues to receive mixed reviews.

Also in May, the long-awaited Glendale outlet mall opened, and the Bass Pro Shop, the anchor store, was said to be on track for a November opening.

June
With the start of the tourism season and a provincial election, talk of the GO train came to Niagara because a big issue. It continues on the

top of priorities for local municipalities and hopefully for the province.

Also in June, the new outdoor fitness centre at the Virgil Sports Park opened - a project of the Town and the Virgil Business Association.

Sad news as the month wrapped up - former municipal and regional politician Wilbert Dick died at his Virgil home at the age of 80. He had been a regional councillor and chair and also a lord mayor of NOTL over a period of almost 20 years.

See Page 26

BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2015.

1974



BRIDGMAN & DURKSEN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



1 Henegan
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-1659
St. Catharines 905-682-6677

1976



Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty

109 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3205
St Davids office
905-262-6996
www.notlrealty.com

1977



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Virgil 905-468-2121
NOTL 905-468-8400
simpsonsparmacy.ca
Facebook.com/simpsonsparmacy
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1980



HENDRIKS valu-mart

130 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-7731

1981



STAGECOACH FAMILY RESTAURANT

45 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3133

1986



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES.
46 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-5242
www.tenthousandvillages.ca

2014 Year in Review: Date for NOTL Hospital closure released

From Page 25

July

In July, we learned that the committee reviewing health care services in town was leaning toward a 30,000 square foot not-for-profit health centre that would put all doctors and health services in one building. The committee is now looking at several different sites that could involve renovating an existing building in town or building from scratch.

The jet boat tours, often a

source of controversy in NOTL, hoped to begin operating a dinner cruise but continued to be delayed by opposition to a request for a liquor licence. In July, Whitpool Jet Boat president John Kinney decided to pull his jet boat tours from the Queenston dock after he received a ruling against his plan for a new building. He said it was purely a business decision.

NOTL lost George Sulder in July - the behind-the-scenes volunteer and long-time St. David's Lions mem-

ber died at the age of 93.

August

In August, NOTL enjoyed a successful Chamber of Commerce Peach Celebration and the St. Vincent de Paul Peach Festival, watched 14-year-old Trinity Arsenault leave the beach at Queen's Royal Park and complete a successful cross-lake swim, and shared the relief of residents and pride of local officials when the 'Brooklyn Bridge of Queenston' reopened, rebuilt and once again connecting the village

to the Niagara River Parkway.

We also learned that polo matches would be held on the Common, organized by the Friends of Fort George and the Toronto Polo Club, and that Niagara's first medical marijuana operation was underway.

Information about a new billing model for the Ontario Provincial Police was touted as evidence Niagara could adopt a more equitable model of billing for its police services, and that became an election issue as local

voters would love to see lowered police costs for this municipality.

Good news from Shaw Festival - its successful season put it on track for a surplus.

September

The 34th annual Terry Fox Run was held on the streets of NOTL Sept. 14, a successful event that raised almost \$60,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Science fiction came to life at Fort George over a weekend for the Era that

Never Was, the first ever steampunk exposition held at the fort.

The long-standing tradition of polo returned to the Common after a 13-year absence in NOTL, with a large crowd on hand to watch.

We learned in September that NOTL Hospital beds would be gone by April. Efforts continue to relocate services, and as April draws closer, Niagara Health System has promised there will be no disruption to services now at the hospital.

BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2015.

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Manulife Financial

| For your future

FORREST MILLER

1512 Niagara Stone Rd.

(Downtown Virgil)

905-468-2232

1994



Investors Group

Ken Hendriks

Senior Executive Financial Consultant

4838 Dorchester Road, Suite 100

Niagara Falls

905-374-2842

ken.hendriks@investorsgroup.com

1996



323 Mary Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4100
www.uch.ca

1997



905-262-1668

www.kristinsfinefoods.com
catering@kristinsfinefoods.com

2001



765 Lakeshore Rd. • Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-7000 • www.jagsrepairz.com

(BCS) (Skins) (ECHO) (Skins) (Skins) (Skins) (Skins) (Skins) (Skins) (Skins)

2002



1010 Line 2

Virgil

905-468-8814

www.carolinecellars.com

Pat Darte elected; Human Rights tribunal chastises former lord mayor

October

The biggest news of the month was the municipal election, with a new lord mayor for NOTL - Pat Darte beat incumbent Dave Eke by a substantial margin - and three new councillors, Betty Disero, Paolo Miele and John Wiens. Gary Zalepa and Dennis Dick were not returned to the council table.

Problems with the parking meters in the Old Town that were identified at the beginning of the tourism season remained an issue

through October, as merchants expressed impatience and dissatisfaction with Town staff charged with solving the problems. The faulty meters also became an election issue, and it seemed some progress was made toward fixing them.

One of the oldest heritage buildings on Queen St. was destroyed by an overnight fire which was started in the kitchen basement of the Andiamo restaurant. The remainder of the building was demolished, with no

cause of the fire determined, and damage estimated at more than \$1 million.

November

In November, we lost Ron Cherney, a long-time member of the Virgil Business Association and a moving force behind the organization of the annual Virgil Stampede. He died in a motor vehicle collision believed to be caused by a heart attack.

Former Lord Mayor Dave Eke spoke out about his

surprise and disappointment over the election results, and then we learned details of a human rights settlement violation - he had been warned about going ahead with the existing format of the annual Christian-focused prayer breakfast, but was fined by the tribunal when the changes that were instituted.

December

With just one meeting of the new council before the break for the holiday, council-

llors agreed to a motion by Lord Mayor Pat Darte to ask for a limit of a 1.5% increase to the municipal tax rate in the 2015 budget. Council chose not to decide on a purchase of the Rink at the Brink, waiting instead for more information. And council also decided not to endorse a request in principle from the NOTL health steering committee that it move forward to choose a location for a not-for-profit health care centre - councillors wanted to wait for more details.

Regional Councillor Gary Burroughs was disappointed but not surprised that he did not receive support for another term as regional chair - there is a group of councillors who are working together to gain control over the region, he explained, and he is not part of it. He said he is looking forward to concentrating on NOTL issues.

The year wound up with mild weather, a green Christmas and a great turn-out for the annual Burning Day Penguin Dip.

BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2015.

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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DENTAL

369 Mary Street •
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905.468.3009
www.niagardental.ca

2005

PHIL'S Value-mart

1551 Niagara Stone Rd. • Virgil
905-468-3286

2007



State Farm
Travis Cairns, Agent

336 Mary Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-2221
www.calltravistoday.ca

2009



Sotheby's Canada
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

14 Queen Street,
Niagara on the Lake
905.468.0001
sothebysrealty.ca

2011



PADDLE NIAGARA

Lessons, Rentals & Sales
905-401-SUPZ (7879) • www.paddleniagara.com

2012

THE GARRISON HOUSE



111C Unit 2, Garrison Village Drive
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4000
www.thegarrisonhouse.ca

2012



SANDTRAP PUB & GRILL

358 Mary Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-8727
www.sandtrappub.com

99¢ LB.
EMPIRE APPLES
 \$2.18 Kg

\$3.49
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 PRODUCT OF USA
 4 LB BAG

99¢ LB.
GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLES
 \$2.18 Kg

\$3.49
WHOLE MUSHROOMS
 16 OZ PACK

99¢ EA.
SEEDLESS CUCUMBERS
 PRODUCT OF MEXICO

\$15.99
SWEET KALE MIX
 PRODUCT OF USA
 28 OZ BAG

\$2.99
 12 OZ PACK
Del Monte Quality
 AT LOCOCO'S
 PINEAPPLE, CANTALOUPE,
 HONEYDEW AND
 WATERMELON CHUNKS

\$3.99
 16 OZ PACK
MANGO SPEARS

2 FOR \$5.00
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 BUTTERED
 240-675 6

\$10.99 LB.
CROTONESE CHEESE
 1/2 STEEL, EMMA
 OR MASTRO
 11.24 Kg
 BY THE WHOLE PIECE ONLY

\$3.99 LB.
LEAN GROUND BEEF
 FRESH STOREMADE
 FAMILY PACK
 \$8.80 Kg

\$2.99 LB.
LEAN GROUND PORK
 FRESH STOREMADE
 FAMILY PACK
 \$6.59 Kg

\$1.88 LB.
CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS
 BACK ATTACHED
 FAMILY PACK
 \$4.14 Kg

\$3.99 LB.
ITALIAN SAUSAGE
 FRESH STOREMADE
 ASSORTED VARIETIES
 \$8.80 Kg

\$2.88 LB.
PORK SIDE RIBS
 \$6.35 Kg

\$4.99 LB.
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 FAMILY PACK
 \$11.00 Kg

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PRODUCT OF MEXICO

6 OZ PACK

77¢
LB.**YAMS**

PRODUCT OF USA

\$1.70 Kg

ONIONS**10 LB BAG****\$1.99****99¢****5 LB BAG****2 LB BAG****.44¢****LOCOCOS****\$3.99**
LB.**EXTRA LEAN GROUND BEEF**

FRESH STOREMADE, FAMILY PACK

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CUT FROM USDA SELECT

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PERFECTION!**\$5.99**
LB.AGED TO
PERFECTION!**MINI STRIPS**

CUT FROM USDA SELECT TOP SIRLOIN CAPS

FAMILY PACK

\$13.21Kg

\$4.99
LB.AGED TO
PERFECTION!**CAPLESS TOP
SIRLOIN STEAKS**

CUT FROM USDA SELECT

FAMILY PACK

\$11.00 Kg

\$3.99
LB.**BONELESS SKINLESS
CHICKEN THIGHS**

FAMILY PACK

\$8.80 Kg

**\$2.49**
LB.WHOLE
ONLY!**SWEET PICKLED
PORK BACK**

ROLLED IN CORNMEAL (PEAMEAL STYLE)

\$5.49 Kg

\$2.99
LB.**BONELESS PORK
SHOULDER BLADE ROAST**

\$6.59 Kg

\$1.99
LB.**PORK SHOULDER
BLADE CHOPS**

FAMILY PACK

\$4.39 Kg

Learn to play duplicate bridge

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

There's party bridge, and then there's duplicate bridge.

And while those who love bridge can enjoy all forms of the popular card game, there's definitely a difference, explain two local duplicate players.

Marlene Walther and Verne Chant are members of the Tuesday afternoon Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre, which was formed about three years ago.

It's an offshoot of the Thursday evening NOTL Duplicate Bridge Club, which has been meeting for almost three decades, says Walther, who plays at both.

She also enjoys playing bridge with smaller groups

in friends' homes, which usually, though not always, is more about socializing and less about serious competitive play - she loves the game, and plays any chance she gets, social or competitive.

Party bridge is based more on luck - you play the cards you're dealt, and how well you do is for the most part at the mercy of the cards.

With duplicate bridge, each table plays the same hand, and scoring is based on relative performance - points are assigned for the outcome of play compared to other tables. With each table having identical cards, the results are based on how the hand is played, regardless of how good the cards are - skill becomes more important, and luck isn't part of the equation, explains Chant.

See Page 31



Marlene Walther and Verne Chant enjoy duplicate bridge and encourage others to give it a try, beginning with a free day of lessons Jan. 20 at the community centre.

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

FAMILY ALBUM



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FAMILY ALBUM Call 905-468-3283 ext. 102

Duplicate bridge appeals to those with 'more competitive nature'

From Page 30

It appeals to those with a competitive nature, he says, and the Tuesday morning bridge centre was developed to further up the ante – the games are sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League, and master points for each game are awarded to players for winning or placing. Players then advance through several ranks, their toward a members receive master points for winning and placing in club and tournament games as they strive to advance through a series of ranks, from

rookie to grand life master.

The points are important to some players, says Chant.

"If you play a lot of bridge, it's a competitive game, and you like to win. Playing sanctioned games give you an opportunity to earn points and keep track of the games you win."

Players keep the points they win and accumulate them over a lifetime, he says.

The ACBL also sanctions tournaments, offering more opportunities to collect points, explains Chant.

Some, of the Thursday night members also play Tuesday, and its member-

per game, \$7 for non-members, with memberships at \$25 per year.



We just want to get people out, having fun and playing bridge."

— Marlene Walther of the NOTL Duplicate Bridge Centre

ship has continued to grow since its first came in September, 2012.

Both groups play at the NOTL community centre. ACBL members play \$5

In order to attract new members, the Tuesday bridge centre is offering an opportunity to learn duplicate bridge in a day. It's for beginners or those

who haven't played in years and wish to return to bridge, says Chant.

It's at the community centre Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It provides a fun, relaxed way to learn for those who might otherwise feel intimidated, says Walther.

It's just an overview, but as a follow-up, beginning Jan. 27, the bridge centre is also offering an eight-week session, of beginners bridge lessons once a week, Tuesday mornings for those who want to continue to learn.

It has another initiative

planned, beginning Feb. 18, offering supervised play for beginners, an opportunity for more "relaxed" duplicate bridge. It will continue on Wednesday mornings, says Walther.

The goal is to get more people interested and playing contract bridge, to keep their bridge centre strong, says Chant.

"We just want to get people out, having fun and playing bridge," adds Walther.

"Bridge is our passion, and we want to share it." For more information, visit notldbc.ca, or call Walther at 905-359-4433.

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Lion Ted Burrows, zone chair for District A2 Lions Clubs, joins Lord Mayor Pat Darle, NOTL Lion president Cathy Wickabrod, MPP Wayne Gats and NOTL Coun. John Wiens at the 75th anniversary open house celebration at the Virgil Fire Hall Saturday. The club has dinner meetings the third Wednesday of each month, and would welcome new members.

Photo submitted

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
323 Simcoe Street

11:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School
Minister: Rev. Bob McGie
Music Director: Dr. Gordon Hovorko
905-468-3343
www.standrewsnl.org

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. David
905-283-5242
www.stdavidsqeeston.ca
Minister: Rev. Paul James

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Nursery and Sunday School

Come and celebrate God's love for us all

ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
1100 am Worship Service - Message by Pastor Kibben
11:00 am Worship Service - Message by Kara & Andrew Suderman, Witness Workers
With Presentation by Jason Martin, NC Canada
"The Politics of Space"
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Shore Road • 905-468-3313
http://www.redearthchurch.ca

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"

Worship and Services - Message by Pastor Kibben
11:00 am Worship Service - Message by Kara & Andrew Suderman, Witness Workers
With Presentation by Jason Martin, NC Canada
"The Politics of Space"
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Shore Road • 905-468-3313
http://www.redearthchurch.ca

Amazing Grace United Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Minister: Rev. Laura Burgerson
Director of Music: Esther Glennecht
222 Victoria Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com

ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
4150 Street
Parade 1792

Sunday Services
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday Service 10:00 am
905-468-3123
Rector: The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert S.G. Wright
www.stmarks1792.com

GateWay Community Church (P.A.O.C.)
1665 Four Mile Creek Road
Sunday, January 18th - 10:30 am
This Sunday 9 am - 10 am
Free Pancake Breakfast
Everyone is Welcome!
Pastor Dave Tunklits Ministering
www.gatewayccc.ca • 905-468-8971
check here for events and podcasts.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.cccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, January 18th
Worship Service 10:00 am
(Presentation provided with any through service)
Message by: Jeff Martens, Pastor
Title: What Angels Wished They Knew

Bahá'í
"Unite the hearts of Thy servants..." Baha'is

WORLD RELIGION DAY
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Jan. 19 - Feast of Sovereignty
905-468-0634 www.ca.baha.org rafabaha@gmail.com

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905-688-2525

Sunday, January 18th
10:00 am Coffee Time
10:30 am Worship Service
Village Kids (ages 1 - grade 5)
Things I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said:
Jesus, the Great Divider
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Green Rd
905-688-3958 Sunday, January 18th

... "Beauty of Holiness" ...
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9:30AM coffee 10:30AM worship
info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

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Pastor Larry Ritter

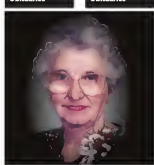
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Coming Events	Coming Events
ALZHEIMER Society Niagara Region Support Group for Care Partners meets third Monday of each month 1:30-3pm (except July & Aug) Alzheimer Society, 403 Ontario St. Unit #1 St. Catharines. 905-687-3914.	Obituaries
Obituaries	Obituaries



DULEWICZ, Zofia - Passed away peacefully, in her 90th year, at Upper Canada Lodge on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Predeceased by Zygmunt, her beloved husband of 56 years. Cherished mother of Danuta (John), Robert (Christine), Jeanie (Vito) Bernini, Richard (Patricia) and Stephanie (Andrew) Fuller. "Babca" will be sadly missed by her grandchildren Robert, Kevin, Christopher (Christina), Joyce (Nico Marino), Juliana (Kevin Julian), Austin and great-grandchildren Ella, Sophie, Luca, Hayden and Jayda. Also missed by her niece Marysia (Steven) Tablerz and many nieces and nephews in Poland. Predeceased by her parents Antonio and Regina Judko, 8 siblings and infant twin granddaughters Sandy Lynn and Tracy Lynn. Zofia survived World War II in Germany as a prisoner of war and followed her husband to Canada to raise their family. She lived for nine years in Niagara Falls and eventually came to farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She will be remembered by the local farming community as hard-working and as a market vendor in the communities of Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Gravel and Mississauga (Square One). When not working Zofia's favourite pastime was Bingo! Visitation and services were held through MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, in memory of Zofia, donations to the Lung Association would be appreciated. Memorials, photos and condolences may be shared at: www.morganfuneral.com

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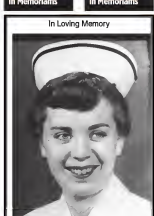


Obituaries	Obituaries
MASSON, Helen (nee Spalding) - With sorrow, her family mourns the death of Helen on January 8, 2015 in her 100 th year. She is predeceased by her husband Georges and survived by her sons Richard (Sherry) and Paul (Elizabeth) as well as four grandchildren Roger, Alisa, Nicole, and Robert and great grandchildren Lily, Sadie, and Maxwell. Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, a descendant of early settlers of that state, Helen and Georges lived in Montreal and a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, before retiring to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1973. She was active in many organizations throughout most of her life, locally in the Niagara Historical Society and the Niagara Horticultural Society and was particularly interested in reading, and her book group. Special thanks to the staff of Chateau Gardens for their care over the past year. At Helen's request, cremation and private family services will take place at a later date. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Historical Society. Memorials, photos and condolences may be shared at: www.morganfuneral.com .	Obituaries

MASSON, Helen (nee Spalding) - With sorrow, her family mourns the death of Helen on January 8, 2015 in her 100th year. She is predeceased by her husband Georges and survived by her sons Richard (Sherry) and Paul (Elizabeth) as well as four grandchildren Roger, Alisa, Nicole, and Robert and great grandchildren Lily, Sadie, and Maxwell. Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, a descendant of early settlers of that state, Helen and Georges lived in Montreal and a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, before retiring to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1973. She was active in many organizations throughout most of her life, locally in the Niagara Historical Society and the Niagara Horticultural Society and was particularly interested in reading, and her book group. Special thanks to the staff of Chateau Gardens for their care over the past year. At Helen's request, cremation and private family services will take place at a later date. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Historical Society. Memorials, photos and condolences may be shared at: www.morganfuneral.com.

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January 17, 2014

~ Mother ~

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Sports

Editor Penny Coles
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Player trade helps even score for Wallbangers

Ross Robinson
#9, Blue Team

Dazzling plays, extraordinary goaltending and unpredictable faux-pas combined to make Sunday morning's Wallbangers hockey game memorable.

Happily, no members of either team had been affected by the rumpus, which had kept a good number of NHL players out of their lineups for several games.

Once again, Vic Tee put the Hanson's Habs Red Team into the lead early with a fairly hard shot from a near impossible angle. It proved that sometimes it is best to "put the puck on the net," as deflections can and do happen.

Frustrated Moore's Maple Leafs goalie Rob Vanderperk still doesn't know whose rear

end re-directed the puck past him.

At the 13:08 mark of the first period, Blue Team defenceman Josh Wwecharyk snapped a beautiful 50' pass from behind his net to Sean Simpson. Alone in the deep slot, Simpson ripped a one-timer into the top left corner of the net. The only problem was that they play on different teams. This gave Red a two-goal lead.

Thankfully, two minutes later Wwecharyk made up for his blunder by starting Blue Team's rally. He went end-to-end before defying Kevin Roush.

Because Blue Team was short a couple of players, Red Team's power forward Terry Nord was traded to Blue for the game. He was made to feel very welcome, especially after he scored a nice goal from the left hash

mark.

After hearing the experts on television opined on Hockey Night in Canada, Blue Team made a conscious effort to control the north/south lanes at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. This simplifies matters, and has the extra benefit of minimizing the risk of collisions and injuries.

Wallbangers hockey is non-contact, and all of the players do their best to avoid each other physically.

Sometimes, though, mistakes happen and bodies fly. A classic Wallbangers incident occurred late in the game when Marlon Tee and his father Vic collided head-on near centre ice, just in front of their bench. Their players bench area gap Management was definitely lacking, and they both crashed to the ice. If there

had been a referee, penalties might have been assessed for two too many men on the ice.

What made this incident truly memorable was that Marlon and Vic play on the same team.

You can't make this stuff up, folks.

Puck elevation is another term recently coined by the talkingheads between periods on C.B.C. This means that since the laws of physics keep goalies on the ice, it is often best to shoot high. Dave Wilson and Sean Tebbutt both scored top-shelf goals.

Although it is often a struggle to keep up with and understand all of the new descriptive terms, not much has changed. The team which works harder and is luckier usually wins the game. A good time was had



Terry Nord and Bill Dickson are the organizers of the Wallbangers Sunday morning hockey league. Photo submitted

by all. Next weekend, a select group of aging Wallbangers will be playing in the prestigious Al Reid Old Timers tournament in Niagara Falls, in the Over 60B division.

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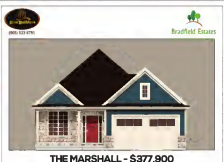


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